

REMARKS

The Office Action dated October 29, 2004, has been carefully reviewed and the foregoing amendment has been made in response thereto.

Applicant elects species B for prosecution on the merits as required under 35 U.S.C. 121. Claims 1-6 and 13-18 are readable on the elected species B. Applicant affirms the election discussed in paragraph four of the Office action.

Claims 1-6 and 13-18 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by US Patent Application No. US 2001/0034284 to Sugiura et al. The Office action specifically indicates that Figure 8 is the relevant reference in the '284 application.

The claims of this application, as amended, say that either the carrier of the first gear unit or the ring gear of the first gear unit are non-releasably secured against rotation. This limitation has been added to distinguish more specifically the claimed invention over the prior art. Figure 8 of the '284 application shows that the carrier CR1 of a compound planetary gearset is releasably connected through a brake B-1 and releasably connected through a one-way clutch F-1 to the gear case 10. Brake B-1 and clutch F-1 each produces a released and engaged connection. When engaged the connection holds carrier CR1 against rotation; when released the carrier is free to rotate. But the claims of the present application define the invention such that the carrier is non-releasably secured against rotation. This arrangement avoids the need for a control and hydraulic actuation system to alternately engage and disengage brake B-1 and avoids the space and cost of the one-way clutch F-1, while still producing the desired gear ratio changes of the transmission.

Claim 1 is a generic claim. It has been amended to more specifically recite that the first gear unit may be either simple or compound.

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, the claims of this application appears now to distinguish the invention over the prior art. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application in view of the amendments.

Respectfully submitted,



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